

Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California

Elected Officials

Chairperson: Neil Mortimer Elected **Vice Chairperson:** Deirdre Jones-Flood

The Washoe Tribe is governed by a Tribal Council and a Chairman. The Tribal Council consists of 12 representatives: Chairman, Vice Chairman, two Community Council Members from each of the four Community Councils, "Off Reservation" Council Member, and a representative from the Reno-Sparks Colony.

Environmental Director: Norman Harry

Land Base: 3,480 acres

Primary Economy: Commercial enterprise, tourism, and

service economies

Population and Poverty (2010 Census): 1,500 residents;

27.9% of which live in poverty.

Educational Attainment (of persons over 25): 54.5%

high school diploma or higher **EPA Funding (2016-2017):**

GAP	\$416,000
Superfund	\$129,000
CWA 106	\$165,000
CWA 319	\$30,000
Air Monitoring Network	\$61,055
Network Exchange	\$251,000
	\$1,052,055

History

The Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California is a federally recognized Indian Tribe organized pursuant to the Indian Reorganization Act of June 18, 1934, as amended. The Tribe along with the four communities, three in Nevada and one in California: Stewart Community, Carson Colony, Dresslerville Community, and Woodfords Community are all listed in the federal register. In addition, the Tribe has jurisdiction over trust allotments in both Nevada and California, and several other Tribal trust and fee parcels. Overall, the Washoe Tribal Council governs the Tribe. Besides the Tribe's federal recognition, the following communities are also federally recognized and listed in the federal register: Carson Colony, Dresslerville Community, Woodfords Community, and Stewart Ranch (which includes the



Stewart Community). In accordance with the Tribal Constitution, each Washoe community has its own separate governing Community Council.

GAP Activities:

Washoe has used GAP funds for various projects, since 1994. The Environmental Department was created in 1998, in response to needs for greater environmental technical expertise. Prior EPA-funded activities include: participating in Tahoe Regional Planning Agency meetings, Climate Change Workshops, and Lake Tahoe Basin Management Unit Planning efforts. The Tribe has also developed an EPA Tribal Environmental Plan, updated their Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, developed a recycling program for each of the five communities, and continued to develop plans and tools as part of developing a Climate Change Mitigation Plan. Contact: Angela Mendiola, 415-972-3284.

Collaboration between BIA, EPA & Washoe Tribe Results in Clean-up of Allotment Land

Since 2006, we had an outstanding RCRA 4005(c)(2) enforcement action against the operator, Reid Skenandore, of the illegal waste disposal site on an allotment. By engaging BIA, we worked through authority issues and they gave the Tribe more than \$300,000 to clean-up the site. The Tribe removed more than 2,000 yards of waste and a dozen abandoned trailers. We're working with BIA to identify ways to prevent future dumping on the site and surrounding allotments. Contact: Jenny Stephenson, (415) 972-3429

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Water Issues Underground Storage Tank

The Tribe has two active UST sites which are inspected every three years by EPA R9 Enforcement Division. *Contact: Bobby Ojha, (415) 972-3374.*

Leviathan Mine

The Leviathan Mine is an abandoned open-pit sulfur mine located approximately 25 miles southeast of Lake Tahoe high on the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The ongoing investigation and cleanup of acid mine drainage from the Superfund site continues. Three interim action treatment systems capture and treat a major portion of the acid mine drainage. Atlantic Richfield Co. operates two treatment systems: a bioreactor that operates year-round, and a high-density sludge treatment system that operates during the summer months. The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board manages another system that captures acid mine drainage flow year-round and stores the water in ponds for treatment in summer. Downstream monitoring has shown great improvement in the biological life and diversity in the watershed, but additional work remains to be done to select a permanent and year-round remedy for the site. EPA works closely with the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California as the investigation and cleanup process continues.

EPA is completing the analysis of the nature and extent of contamination and the Tribe plays an important role in reviewing workplans and providing input. This includes Fish Sampling and Plant Sampling. Additionally, as part of the National Historic Preservation Action (NHPA) the Tribe provides field monitors and oversight during ground disturbance activities. As we develop detailed plans for the long-term cleanup, the Washoe Tribe has a major role in advising EPA and participating in the proper assessment of risks faced by members of the Tribe in their cultural uses of resources that may be contaminated. In addition to an annual technical update meeting each January, the EPA and the Washoe Tribe have met a number of times, and held community meetings and a tour for the chairman and interested councilmembers to report on the project and discuss the next steps. Contact: Lynda Deschambault, (415) 947-4183 or Gary Riley, (415) 972-3003.



Nonpoint Source Assessment Report and Management Plan Using CWA 319 funds, the Tribe is updating their Nonpoint Source Assessment Report and Management Plan. The initial documents were prepared by the Tribe and approved by EPA in 2000. This revision updates the best management practices based on current economic, social and environmental conditions. The primary purpose of the Washoe Tribe's Nonpoint Source Assessment Report and Management Plan is to identify, control, reduce and abate nonpoint source pollution on the quality of the Tribe's surface and ground water resources. Contact: Stephanie Wilson, (775) 885-6190.

Pine View Estates SDWA Section 1423(c) Compliance Order

On June 3, 2016, Region 9 issued a non-penalty Final Order, pursuant to Section 1423(c) of the Safe Drinking Water Act, to Leon Mark Kizer, PTP Development, Inc., and the Pine View Estates Home Owners Association ("Respondents") for their failure to comply with the Act's Underground Injection Control requirements for the Class V wastewater well system on Indian allotment land in Douglas County, Nevada. The System serves a 240-home residential subdivision known as Pine View Estates, Mr. Kizer, a member of the Washoe Tribe, owns the allotment land. The Tribe does not view the Pine View Estates development, which is about 7 miles away from its reservation, as a tribal facility. The Final Order requires the Respondents to submit within 60 days a plan to bring the System into compliance with the SDWA within 36 months. Respondents challenged this Order in the federal district court in Reno on July 5, 2016, and litigation is ongoing. Contact: Rich Campbell, EPA ORC, 415-972-3870.

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National Environmental Information Exchange Network Program

Washoe Tribe has one active 3-year grant from the National Environmental information Exchange Network program in the amount of \$251,000 awarded by HQ OEI in FY13. The project implements two priority data exchanges to EPA utilizing its Exchange Network node: utilize the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) to flow biological and habitat monitoring parameters and flow tribe's air quality data to EPA's Air Quality System (AQS). In spring 2016, Washoe reported experiencing some serious technical setbacks with its air quality data exchange which delayed work completion. At Washoe's request, the grant was extended for an additional year to September 2017 to complete both data exchanges. No new funds were added. *Contact: Connie Choy, 415-972-3644*.

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